

minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, one film which earned an Academy Award nomination for best picture more than 10 years ago featured Harrison Ford whose character went to the aid of an Amish family after they had become entangled in a brutal crime. The film, *Witness*, was fiction, but it taught us what we can learn from communities like the Amish. It is a sad fact, however, that these colonies are often the targets of scorn and ridicule.

In my home State of Montana there are similar religious-based colonies known as Hutterites. What has happened to one of them in recent weeks is outrageous.

The FBI has been asked to investigate a fire which was deliberately set in the timber supply of a new Hutterite colony in Montana. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

There have been other attempts to harass colony members, which is equally disturbing.

Mr. Speaker, Montanans will not stand for these sorts of hate crimes. We welcome people of all religious backgrounds with open arms, and I urge Federal officials to use all means at their disposal to assure the safety and the welfare of these citizens. It is the very least we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

[From the Billings Gazette, Mar. 23, 1998]

FBI ASKED TO INVESTIGATE HUTTERITE FIRE
BLAZE DELIBERATELY SET, FIRE OFFICIALS SAY;
HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS DESCRIBE INCIDENT
AS HATE CRIME

Ledger (AP)—Fire officials say a blaze in a lumber shed at a fledgling Hutterite colony in north-central Montana was arson, and it may be a hate crime aimed at the religious sect.

The fire two weeks ago charred lumber intended to build housing at the new Camrose Colony, near Ledger in southeastern Toole County. Investigators say the fire was clearly arson.

The fire took 13 hours and 38,000 gallons of water to extinguish. Damage was estimated at about \$100,000.

Toole County Sheriff Vern Anderson said the fire appeared to be an attempt to intimidate colony members, who have bought several farms in the area within the past few weeks.

"It appears that we've got somebody disgruntled that the colony people have purchased that property," Anderson said. But he shied from describing the fire as a hate crime.

"Those are some of the words that are floating around here," Anderson said: "It's hard for me to say."

The Montana Human Rights Network is less reticent.

"It's got a lot of the classic elements of a hate crime," said Christine Kaufmann. The network's research director, "A group that is different in some way is singled out in the community. It seems to be clearly an effort to prevent them from establishing a colony in the area."

The fires and a spate of vandalism, including damage to vehicles and grain bins, have left colony members shaken.

"We just took it over about three weeks ago," said Joe Waldner, a spokesman for the

East End Colony near Havre, which is splitting and establishing Camrose.

The Havre-area colony acquired several area farms, about 8,500 acres, south of the Marias River. The plan is to grow grain and raise livestock "a few cattle, a few hogs and some chickens," Waldner said.

The value of the building materials lost in the fire totaled about \$70,000. Waldner says the damage to the building itself probably tops \$30,000.

The loss will slow building at Camrose, but it won't alter the long-range plan.

"We are just going to keep on going," Waldner said, "We hope the police catch the guy who did this."

So do a number of neighbors.

"I don't like what happened up here," said Karl Ratzburg, whose property adjoins the colony. "I hope they find these people and prosecute them for what they did."

The sheriff said his deputies continue to check leads on the arson, and he notified the FBI of the incident. The FBI declined comment on any involvement on its part.

Kaufmann, the network's research director, has written the FBI and U.S. Attorney Sherry Matteucci asking the agency to actively investigate the colony fires.

Margie MacDonald, executive director of the Montana Association of Churches, said she hoped residents in the area will rally behind the colony.

"We are real concerned about the magnitude of violence up there," MacDonald said, "Arson of any sort is pretty appalling."

MacDonald said she hopes area pastors will work to develop a community response to the colony crimes, which seem to be rooted in religious intolerance. Pastors were a key part of the strong backlash against hate crimes that targeted Jewish families in Billings in 1993, she noted.

"What we hope to see is some strong community response," MacDonald said. "People really can't be silent when something like this happens."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WASTED MONEY ON IRRELEVANT INVESTIGATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Committee on House Oversight is expected to give \$1.3 million to the House Committee on the Judiciary for an enlarged congressional staff to investigate President Clinton. The American people are tired of this waste, and so am I, and this is from a leadership that promised to trim congressional staffs.

□ 1800

Now, what is amazing to me is the exchange between the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE), myself, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) only 1½ hours ago in the Committee on the Judiciary, when I explained that I

thought we needed no more wasted dollars and harassment of the President.

The chairman of this committee, in session, sought to reassure me that the monies would be used for harmless oversight of the Department of Justice and for the noncontroversial reauthorization of the Department. It is on the record in the committee. This is in direct contradiction to the written statement yesterday of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) in a letter that has come to my attention that he has sent to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee of House Oversight, to justify this new windfall by saying that new investigators were needed to recycle and duplicate nearly every independent counsel investigation into the Clinton administration, from fundraising to allegations at the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior. These matters have already been overinvestigated, but they directly contradict the purpose for which these funds are being authorized by the committee.

I have never received a letter about this in my career. This is a unilateral Republican action to which I take total exception. There has been stealth in correspondence, there have been internal contradictions. But I must now come to the House and report that the Republican leadership is planning to surreptitiously commence to staff for an impeachment investigation without any notice to the Congress, to the Democrats on the Committee on the Judiciary, or to the American people, without a vote from the House of Representatives.

I urge the gentleman from Georgia (Speaker GINGRICH), with all respect, to rethink this dangerous, radical political strategy. It is outrageous that we are being told publicly one thing by the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) when his letter to his own leadership is saying something else entirely different: More money to investigate the President.

Why can the majority not just admit it, rather than hiding under these cloaks and misstatements. Members of the House will get no opportunity to vote on this massive increase of funds. When I explained that the Speaker agreed with this request in a cover letter, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) asked that he not be saddled with the Speaker's words.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I will release to the press the words of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) justifying this new congressional surplus of money and staff and resources, and let the American people judge for themselves.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts, the ranking subcommittee chairman.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, and I think he is performing a very important service.